

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 2-6 with the following:

A³
This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. design patent application Serial No. 29/054,342, filed May 30, 1996, which is a divisional of U.S. design patent application Serial No. 29/019,652, filed March 7, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. D374,941, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/038,676, filed March 26, 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5,323,583, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 8-9 with the following:

A⁴
The present invention generally relates to protective covers, and more particularly relates to a protective cover for a stanchion or post.

Replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 11-20 with the following:

A⁵
The above addressed failings of present protective stanchions and the identified need for a low maintenance protective stanchion are addressed by the present invention which provides a protective sleeve for use on a stanchion or post. The post is an elongated member having one end secured to a fixed structure. The post extends generally linearly away from the one end, at the fixed structure, to an opposing terminal end. A sleeve is provided, having an elongated generally cylindrical body extending between two opposing ends. The sleeve has a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along the sleeve and through at least one of the two opposing ends. Further, the interior cavity has a cross-sectional shape adapted for slip fit engagement with the post.

Replace the paragraphs on page 3, lines 9-12 with the following:

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged view of detail 3 of Figure 2;

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged view of detail 4 of Figure 2;

FIGURE 5 is the view similar to Figure 2 with the stanchion fully inserted into the sleeve;

FIGURE 6 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 6-6 of Figure 5;

Replace the paragraph on page 5, line 19 to page 6, line 5 with the following:

Sleeve 14 may be formed of a number of suitable, malleable structural materials, and is preferably formed of a structural plastic, including, for example, generally available low density polyethylenes and LEXAN® brand polycarbonate, available from General Electric Company. Sleeve 14 is conveniently molded by well-known rotary molding processes. As is also known in the molding of plastics, various coloring agents may be mixed into the material of which sleeve 14 is formed to provide a durable coloring throughout sleeve 14, and a variety of material enhancing additives may be used, including, but not limited to, additives to resist ultraviolet (UV) deterioration, for example.

IN THE CLAIMS

Replace current claim 1 with the following:

1. (Amended) A cover for a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing terminal end, the cover consisting essentially of:

a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending between two opposing ends, said sleeve having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of

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